

office". That statement is clearly erroneous, as can be readily seen from brief inspection of the block diagram in Figure 1 of Pintar.

Figure 1 shows one line that extends vertically upward from block 500, then leftward along a horizontal line, and then vertically downward to connect to the output terminal 11. Figure 1 also shows another line that extends horizontally leftward from block 500, then upward to connect to the output terminal 12. Both of these lines bypass the microcontroller 100 and the signal conditioning means 300 (i.e., the decoder) and connect the telephone lines 13 and 14 from the telephone directly to the telephone lines 11 and 12 that connect to the local exchange.

The same lines are shown in greater detail in Figure 2 of Pintar. Terminals 11 and 13 are connected to each other via FET 501 when the latter is turned on and disconnected (to restrict the call) when the latter is turned off. Similarly, terminals 12 and 14 are connected to each other via FET 502 when the latter is turned on and disconnected (to restrict the call) when the latter is turned off. As stated in col. 4, lines 1-5, of Pintar: "nonpolar switching means 500, consisting of field effect transistors 501, 502, 503, 504 and 505, are connected to the telephone lines 11 or 12 servicing the central office exchange and to the telephone lines 13 and 14 servicing the telephone". Necessarily, when the switching means 500 are turned on and a telephone user dials a destination telephone number, the resulting DTMF signals from the telephone will be received

by the central exchange directly via the aforementioned pathways that connect terminals 11 and 12 to terminals 12 and 14. DTMF signals transmitted along these pathways do not pass through the signal conditioning means, i.e., the DTMF decoder. Accordingly, the Examiner's statement that the "signal associated with those calls must go through the decoder" is clearly mistaken.

While it is true that the DTMF signals transmitted to the central office are at the same time received by the signal conditioning means in the Pintar device, that is solely for the purpose of decoding those signals into digital signals that the microprocessor can process in accordance with a call restriction algorithm. There is no need for the signal conditioning means to re-transmit the DTMF signals to the central office, which DTMF signals have already been received by the central office during dialing of the destination phone number. Accordingly, the Examiner's further assertion (see p. 15 of Final Rejection) that "that signal is then passed on to the signal conditioning means/DTMF decoder for transmission to the central office" is also clearly erroneous.

As for the Examiner's repeated *non sequitur* that "there is no other way for a telephone to work", we are not arguing about how a telephone works, but rather how the call restriction device of Pintar works. It is as plain as day from Figures 1 and 2 of Pintar that the DTMF signals from a dialed telephone are received by both the central office and by the signal conditioning means. Those DTMF signals do not reach the

central office via the signal conditioning means.

Moreover, it should be remembered that the Pintar device is programmed to disconnect a restricted telephone call. A telephone call cannot be disconnected unless it has been connected. A telephone call cannot be connected unless the central office has received the DTMF signals representing the dialed destination telephone number. Only after the connection has been made does the microcontroller of Pintar react to detection of a restricted telephone number by disconnecting the call.

Since all of the rejections are based at least in part on Pintar, and since the Examiner's assessment of the materiality of Pintar is based entirely on the misconception (discussed at length above) that Pintar must necessarily incorporate a DTMF transmitter as well as receiver, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Final Rejection should be withdrawn.

In particular, with regard to the rejection of claims 1-6, 9, 10, 26 and 27 as being unpatentable over Pintar in view of Rosen, the Examiner's supporting assertion that "it is inherent that if a call is to be allowed, the signaling path must be reversed and the signal must be converted back from a digital signal to a DTMF tone signal for transmission to the central office exchange connected by lines 11 and 12" is clearly erroneous. The direct connection of the terminals 11 and 12 to terminals 13 and 14 via the turned-on FETs makes it neither

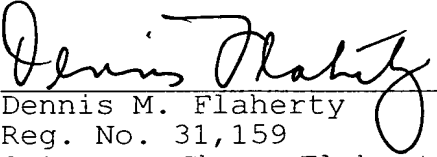
Atty. Docket: AER-P-2

necessary nor inherent that the digital signals received by the processor be re-converted back into DTMF signals. The Examiner has augmented the Pintar teaching with a phantom component (i.e., the transmitter portion of a DTMF transceiver) that can form no valid basis for rejecting Applicant's patent claims. There is no such component in the device of Pintar because it would be ridiculous to convert DTMF signals into digital signals and then back into DTMF signals destined for the local exchange, when the DTMF signals can instead be passed directly to the local exchange, as Pintar does.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-10, 12-19, 21-23, and 25-27 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,


May 20, 2005
Date


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